

FARNHAM WITH STRATFORD ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 8 February 2021 by video via Zoom

Present: Councillors Ian Norman, Gordon Gilbert, Ian Tayler, Jill Pass, Tim Plant, Richard Ayres, Rosemary Conibeer, Michael Light

Apologies: None

In attendance: Parish clerk Debbi Tayler, Andrew Reid (SCC), Carol Poulter (ESC), Sarah Morgan, Nicola Jenner (ESC)

1 Apologies

No apologies were received.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

3 Minutes of meetings held 11 and 25 January 2021

The minutes of the meetings were unanimously approved and will be signed by the chair.

4 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

5 Reports from County and District Councillors

Councillor Reid has provided a report which the clerk circulated. The council's Covid 19 reports will continue. Discovering Suffolk is a project to raise awareness of the range of walking routes, areas of interest and variety of landscapes through public rights of way and points of access. SCC will be replacing 25% of signposts and QR codes will be attached to them that link to a smartphone app. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has been praised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue Services in relation to how they have responded to the pandemic.

Councillor Poulter's report had been circulated. It focussed mainly on the pandemic. Councillor Light thanked the council for the help they had given to small businesses during the pandemic.

6 Nicola Jenner, Communities Officer, ESC

Nicola introduced herself and gave a presentation on the main roles of the Communities Partnership, the clerk will forward the presentation to councillors. Nicola explained there is funding available to help with developing opportunities for young people, reducing social isolation and loneliness and alternative, active and sustainable transport. There is also a Bounce-back Fund which can help with making community centres Covid safe when they reopen. The Partnership is working with Health and Wellbeing Teams and Saxmundham Health to ensure the over 65s in the community are not isolated. They are providing EAST Bags which contain activities, treats and support. The clerk will pass this information on to Judith Norman and will pass on Maureen Greaves email address to Nicola. It was agreed that a member of the parish council will attend the next Communities Partnership meeting. The chair thanked Nicola for a very informative presentation.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

7 Clerk’s Report

The correspondence log was circulated prior to the meeting. The clerk advised that Councillor Conibeer and her family had undertaken yet another litter pick in Farnham which resulted in four bags of mainly cans and bottles. The chair thanked the Conibeers for their efforts.

8 RFO’s report

On 31 January there was £6249.18 in the council’s bank account. There were three invoices for approval.

		Legal power
Clerk’s salary inc admin	£174.89	LGA 1972 s.112
PAYE Month 11	£40.00	LGA 1972 s.112
Village maintenance	£383.15	LGA 1972 s.111

The clerk advised that her invoice includes the monthly Zoom subscription of £14.39. The invoices were all approved. The balance of funds is now £5651.14. The approvals sheets and bank statements will be delivered to Councillors Pass and Gilbert to sign.

9 Reports from external meetings

This item was moved to item 4.

Councillor Norman reported that he and the clerk had attended a Zoom meeting with EDF concerning the council’s Relevant Representation to the Planning Inspectorate. Present for EDF were Tom McGarry, Head of Stakeholder Management, Carly Vince, Chief Planning Officer, Richard Bull, Strategic Development Manager (Traffic and Transport) and Steve Henry, Community Relations Officer.

Tom gave a brief update on the latest round 5 of consultation, there had been 429 responses. EDF are making inroads to increasing the number of deliveries to site that can be made by rail and sea. They expect 60% of goods to come by rail and sea and a maximum of 40% by road. They are expecting to be able to have four trains going in and out and are working closely with Network Rail. There will be no passing loop on the line but there will be continuous welded lines to minimise noise.

Carly Vince gave an update on the timing of the DCO and said there would be two preliminary meetings with the Planning Inspectorate in March/April with 28 days notice. A Rule 6 letter will be issued to set out the draft programme.

Councillor Norman said the parish council didn’t feel their comments had been addressed and in particular with the route. Tom said they had and Carly will send the clerk a link to the relevant document that addresses this. EDF said they are having meetings with residents who will be affected. Councillor Ayres and Sarah Morgan said they had had a meeting last year. Councillor Poulter said that we should insist on a Community Forum meeting with all the parish councils and EDF. EDF are only meeting councils on an individual basis and have refused a Community Forum meeting.

A working group will be set up to deal with traffic management issues during the bypass construction period, the council will be included on this group.

The issue of the house on Farnham bend was raised. The clerk has written twice about EDF repairing the external wall but has had no reply. EDF agreed to look into this and correspond with the clerk. A response has now been received and a maintenance crew will repair the wall and keep the outside of the house in good repair.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....

It was agreed that the clerk will send her notes of the meeting to everyone.

10 Items for future meetings

Councillor Pass will lead a discussion on planning at the March meeting. An item will be included as suggested by Sarah Morgan for the council to decide whether to have a nature strategy.

Date of next meeting 8 March, the clerk will issue a Zoom Outlook appointment nearer the time.

The meeting was closed at 20.50.

Signed(Chair)

Date.....